

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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O 220901Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1662  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO  
AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1105

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, RO  
SUBJ: MORE ON ROMANIAN DISSENT

REF: BUCHAREST 1091, 1085, 1069

1. SUMMARY. SITUATION OF DISSENT AUTHOR PAUL GOMA  
AND OTHER SIGNERS OF ROMANIAN MANIFESTO  
HAS REVERTED TO STATUS PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 17, I.E.  
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SURVEILLANCE AND OCCASIONAL HARASSMENT, BUT NO INTER-  
FERENCE WITH THEIR MOVEMENTS. GOMA HAS TOLD LONDON  
TIMES CORRESPONDENT THAT HE WAS NEVER ARRESTED OR  
DETAINED. MANY OF ORIGINAL SIGNERS OF MANIFESTO ARE  
DUE TO LEAVE COUNTRY THIS WEEK. RCP SECRETARY  
FOR PROPAGANDA CORNEL BURTICA HAS COMPLAINED TO  
AMBASSADOR ABOUT DISTORTED COVERAGE OF GOMA AFFAIR

BY WESTERN PRESS AND MEDIA. GOMA HIMSELF WILL SEE BURTICA FEBRUARY 23 AS ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES ATTEMPT TO PUT LID ON STORY. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE APPEARANCE FEBRUARY 17 NY TIMES STORY ON APPARENT DETENTION OF PAUL GOMA AND OTHER SIGNERS OF ROMANIAN MANIFESTO BOTH MALCOLM BROWNE (AUTHOR OF STORY) AND A LONDON TIMES REPORTER HAVE MANAGED TO SEE GOMA AND SEVERAL OTHER SIGNATORIES. ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE RELAXED MEASURES TAKEN TO ISOLATE THE GROUP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CEAUSESCU'S TOUGH FEBRUARY 17 SPEECH. WHILE ONLY THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS COME THROUGH UNINTERRUPTED AND MAIL IS STILL STOPPED, GOMA AND OTHERS CAN NOW CIRCULATE FREELY THOUGH UNDER SURVEILLANCE. LONDON TIMES JOURNALIST WAS PHOTOGRAPHED ENTERING GOMA'S APARTMENT FEBRUARY 20, BUT NOT HARASSED. GOMA TOLD HER THAT HE WAS NEVER ARRESTED OR DETAINED, ALTHOUGH FOR A FEW HOURS HE APPEARED TO BE UNDER A "STATE OF SEIGE". GOMA REITERATED HE WILL NOT LEAVE ROMANIA "UNTIL EVERY ROMANIAN WHO WANTS A PASSPORT HAS ONE." HOWEVER, HE APPARENTLY ALSO EXPRESSED SOME REGRET THAT THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED HIS MANIFESTO SO FAR HAVE DONE SO MORE IN THE HOPES OF OBTAINING A PASSPORT THAN AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

3. IN FACT, SEVERAL OF THE SIGNATORIES ARE DUE TO LEAVE THIS WEEK, E.G., SERGIU MANOLIU AND HIS MOTHER AND THE GESSWEINS. LATTER HAVE COLLECTED TOTAL OF CONFIDENTIAL

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EIGHT PASSPORTS FOR THEMSELVES AND RELATIVES. OF FOUR NEW SIGNATORIES (TOTAL IS NOW 13) ONE, LUMINITA CALDER, IS A YOUNG WRITER WHO HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL FOR OVER A YEAR WITHOUT SUCCESS.

4. DURING A FEBRUARY 19 MEETING ON AN UNRELATED SUBJECT, PARTY SECRETARY FOR PROPAGANDA CORNEL BURTICA COMPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR ABOUT DISTORTED WESTERN PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF GOMA AFFAIR, DENIED THAT ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES EVER DID OR WOULD CONTEMPLATE ARRESTS IN SUCH INSTANCES AND POINTED OUT THAT IN CASE OF MANOLIUS IT WAS NOT LACK OF A PASSPORT, BUT LACK OF A WESTERN VISA, WHICH PREVENTED THEIR DEPARTURE FROM ROMANIA. SEPTTEL CONTAINS MORE DETAIL.

5. BURTICA IS REPORTED ALSO TO HAVE RECENTLY TOLD ANOTHER SOURCE (AUTHOR NICOLAE BREBAN, HIMSELF A DEFECTED AND RETURNED WRITER LIKE GOMA) THAT IT WAS POLEMICAL TONE OF GOMA'S LETTER (BUCHAREST 967) WHICH CAUSED GREATEST

DIFFICULTY FOR AUTHORITIES AND THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEMS IF HE HAD LIMITED HIMSELF TO A SIMPLE EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR CZECH CAUSE. BURTICA IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE ASKED BREBAN AND SOME OTHERS FOR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE CURRENT PROBLEM AND IS SAID TO HAVE REMARKED THAT PERHAPS GOR HAD TREATED GOMA UNJUSTLY IN PAST AND MIGHT LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF PUBLISHING SOME OF HIS WORKS. SUBJECT MAY EVEN BE BROACHED AT A FEBRUARY 23 MEETING BETWEEN BURTICA AND GOMA, OF WHICH WE HAVE JUST LEARNED. MEETING APPARENTLY WAS ARRANGED BY BREBAN, ACTING AS A GO-BETWEEN.

6. COMMENT: GOR TACTICS IN GOMA AFFAIR, AFTER A SLIGHT MISCALCULATION, SEEM TO HAVE REVERTED TO PAST METHODS OF HANDLING SIMILAR PROBLEMS. ISOLATE AND/OR BUY OFF GOMA WHILE PERMITTING THOSE AROUND CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM TO LEAVE. HOWEVER, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH BREBAN, BURTICA IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ALL TOO AWARE OF THE DANGER IN SUCH A SOLUTION, I.E. THE STIMULATION OF ADDITIONAL REQUESTS TO DEPART AS OTHERS SEE THAT THE TACTICS EMPLOYED BY THE SIGNERS OF THE MANIFESTO HAVE BEEN REWARDED. THUS, IT IS DECIDELY NOT A FINAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, EVEN HERE IN ROMANIA. NEVERTHELESS, AS NEWS OF THE BURTICA-GOMA MEETING INDICATES, ROMANIANS ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN TO RECOUP THEIR LOSSES AND PUT LID ON THIS PARTICULAR STORY.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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